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IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants have canceled claims 1-36 without prejudice to their consideration in a continuing application. Applicants have added claims 37-51.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-36. (cancelled)

37. (new) A medical implant apparatus comprising:

a plate member having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface, wherein the intersection of said upper surface and a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis forms at least one straight segment, and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion;

a washer having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an aperture, said lower surface being adjacent said upper portion of said plate member; and

a nut having a sleeve portion that extends into said aperture.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said plate member includes a second substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said second lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said flange pieces of said lower portions extend substantially toward each other.

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40. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a length, and said lower portion extends along substantially the entirety of said length.

41. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a side edge, and said lower portion is adjacent said side edge.

42. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper portion has a lower surface adjacent said lower portion, and said lower surface of said upper portion is substantially smooth.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said upper surface of said washer comprises a rounded head.

44. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the washer aperture includes at least one tapered section.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the washer aperture is oblong in shape.

46. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said washer aperture further includes an undercut.

47. (new) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said nut further includes tabs and a skirt portion.

48. (new) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said tabs extend upward in an inward incline from said body portion.

49. (new) A stabilizer for use with a medical implant, comprising:

a body having an octagonal shape and a substantially smooth upper surface, a hole extending through said body and having an axis, said hole having at least one tapered section, and at least one finger extending away from said axis.

50. (new) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said body has a lower surface that is convex.

51. (new) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said body includes a second finger extending away from said axis, said fingers being substantially diametrically opposed.